

What Foster Parents Need to Know about:

- 1. Traveling with a Child in their Care and**
- 2. Allowing a Child in their Care to Stay Overnight with a Friend**

General Guidelines-

Resource Parents should be sure of the following:

- At least one adult (a person over 21 years of age who is responsible for the child) will be in attendance at all times;
- The resource parent has spoken to the adult about the overnight stay;
- The resource parent has concluded that the home is a safe environment for the child;
- The overnight stay does not conflict with any court order or foster care program activity, including, but not limited to: meetings, therapy and visitation; and
- The trip does not conflict with any court orders prohibiting contact with specific individuals.

When Consent is Not Required-

Resource parents may take children in their care on trips or allow them to have an overnight stay within 100 miles of the District of Columbia for less than 2 nights without obtaining consent from CFSA.

- However, the resource parent must notify the child's social worker of the child's location whenever they will be staying overnight away from the foster home.
- If the resource parent does not reach the social worker, the resource parent may leave a voice mail detailing the child's location.

Consent is Required-

- Whenever a child or youth will travel more than 100 miles from the District of Columbia
- Whenever the child or youth will be away from the foster home for more than 2 nights

To obtain Consent Resource Parents should-

- Request permission for the child or youth to travel as soon as they
 - start planning a trip or
 - become aware of a trip in which the child would like to participate (i.e., a school, community or religious organization activity).
- Unless it is an emergency, requests to travel should always be made at least 10 business days in advance of the trip.

What about Emergencies Requiring Travel or Requiring the Resource Parents to Plan an Overnight Stay for a Child in their Care?

- Inform the child's social worker of the emergency that requires either travel or an overnight stay as soon as the resource parent becomes aware of the situation.
 - If the social worker is not available, contact the supervisory staff. If staff cannot be reached during non-business hours, contact the CFSA Hotline at (202) 671-7233.
 - The social worker will inform the resource parent within 24 hours if the travel or overnight stay can be approved.
 - If the child or youth would miss a court-ordered activity or if the travel/overnight stay cannot be approved for other reasons, CFSA will make arrangements for the care of the child while the foster parent is away.

What about Contract Agency Resource Parents?

- Resource Parents should notify the Program Director of the child or youth's location whenever they will be away from the foster home and consent of CFSA is not required
- When consent is required, the Resource Parent shall inform the contract agency staff.
- Contract agency staff will contact their CFSA Program Monitor if they are unable to obtain parental consent.